

ANNIE TOWZEY COLL

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Annie Towzey Coll

(1875 - 1977)

The late Mrs. Coll was born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania where she met Raymond S. Coll in 1892 when he was city editor of the Connellsville Courier. They were married in 1896 and had twin sons, Raymond Hugh and Thomas, in 1898. Thomas died at birth; Raymond Hugh died in 1970.

The Coll family came to Hawaii in 1921 and bought a home on Prince Edward Street in Waikiki. In 1922, Mr. Coll became editor of the Honolulu Advertiser, a position he held until his retirement in 1958. After his death in 1962, he was selected to be in the Honolulu Press Club's Hall of Fame.

From 1928 to 1932, Mrs. Coll owned and operated Coll's Oriental Shop in Waikiki. Raymond Hugh Coll, a newsman, was a war correspondent during World War II.

This transcript contains Mrs. Coll's reminiscences about her family and friends; Mr. Coll's employment and associates; their residences and social life. She also discusses the Thalia Massie case of 1931 and expresses her opinions on various subjects.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE TOWZEY COLL

(MRS. RAYMOND S. COLL, SR.)

At her Diamond Head apartment, 2969 Kalakaua Avenue, 96815

May 10, 1972

C: Annie Towzey Coll

A: Kathy Allen, Interviewer

A: This will be recording now whatever you say and after it's been running awhile I'm going to test it to be sure that we're picking up your voice all right.

C: Yes, uh huh.

A: Now will you repeat what you just said about your husband?

C: Well, he was editor of the [Honolulu] Advertiser for 38 years. [Actually it was 36 years. He became editor in 1922 and retired in 1958. He did continue going to the office after retirement.--^{ed}IFC Hereafter, the figure 36 will be used for the sake of accuracy.]

A: And when did Mr. Coll pass away?

C: He died at the age of ninety in 1962. And he was a very good friend of G.J. Watumull. They were very good friends. He admired him greatly. We used to live at the Halekulani Hotel then. He used to come and sit at the table with us and talk. That was way back in 1943.

A: What do you remember about the Halekulani in those days? Is there anything special you remember?

C: Well, it was during the war years and my son [Raymond Hugh Coll, known as Ray Coll, Jr.] was a war correspondent and we used to meet many famous people.

A: Who were some of them? Do you recall?

C: We left there in 1950 [1949--^{ed}IFC].

A: And is that when you went to Ohua Avenue?

- C: Well, we moved there temporarily and then we bought a home in Kahala--the [Virginia J. and Jay A.] Quealy, Jr. home [4859 Kahala Avenue]. And later on we built a big home on the ocean front: four bedrooms and four baths in a huge home. We lived right next door to Lawson [H.] Riley [at 4821 Kainapau Place]. (chuckles) We sold the home because Mr. Coll and I were getting too old for such a big place and an admiral [Adrian H. Perry, U.S.N. Retired] owns it now. I think he's retired. We've lived here since 1960. We bought this place in 1960.
- A: Very lovely place it is too. [Apartment 1003] Diamond Head Apartments.
- C: My son died August 4th two years ago [1970] in a nursing home and his widow, Irva [Fewell] Coll--she works for the Advertiser; she's assistant Sunday editor--lives with me. And because of my eye sight, my good friend came to live with me--Mrs. [Olive] Ragg. Well, the doctor thought it was safer because Irva works all day and because of my sight I might fall. Fortunately, I haven't. (chuckles)
- A: Very fortunate and I hope you never do.
- C: Oh, I have much to be thankful for. I have a wonderful granddaughter [Mary Alice Coll (Mrs. George A.) Young] in California and three great-granddaughters and one great-great-granddaughter. (chuckles)
- A: Wonderful.
- C: But I don't go out anymore. I feel it's time now, on account of my age and my sight, that I better stay home.
- A: Well, you have a lovely home and a beautiful view so that there's really no need to go out.
- C: I'm perfectly able to take care of myself, but as for going out, Mrs. Ragg and I take a taxi when we go. I go shopping occasionally but I don't dress up anymore. I live in muumuus.
- A: They're very becoming. I like the one you have on especially. It's very nice.
- C: Well, I have some very pretty ones.
- A: They're very comfortable.
- C: I have much to be thankful for but all my old friends my age are gone; haven't any left.

- A: Well, you know, you're ninety-seven. That's almost a century.
- C: Ninety-seven. I'm nearly a hundred, you know.
- A: Yes.
- C: My health's good.
- A: Yes, and you certainly do not look ninety-seven.
- C: Oh well, I guess I do (chuckles) but I have a sister living who is ninety--Mrs. Lenore Hoffman--and she was secretary to David Crawford when he was president of the University [of Hawaii]. She was his secretary for seventeen years and then she retired and went to California. She lives in Santa Barbara and she's in very good health.
- A: That's remarkable. Is she your only sister?
- C: She's the only one living. My mother had a big family.
- A: How many were there?
- C: Eleven children.
- A: What were your parents' names?
- C: Their name was T-O-W-Z-E-Y. It used to have a Di- on it but we took it off. It's a French name. It used to be D-I-T-O-W-Z-E-Y. My mother was a Southerner. She came from the Fitzhugh family of the South, a very noted family [from Virginia]. And on my father's side, he was the son of an Episcopalian minister, a graduate of Oxford University.
- A: What was your father's name?
- C: Richard.
- A: Richard Towzey.
- C: Yes.
- A: And what did your father do?
- C: My father owned a leather store.
- A: And where was that that he owned the leather store?
- C: In Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

- A: Is that where you were born?
- C: Yes. [March 1, 1875] It's Fayette County, I think. A long time ago. My husband and I were married sixty-six years.
- A: Isn't that remarkable. What was your mother's first name?
- C: Her name was Mollie. Her mother was a full cousin of General Robert E. Lee and her full cousin married George Washington's stepdaughter, Martha Custis' daughter.
- A: How did you meet Mr. Coll?
- C: Well, he was city editor of the Connellsville Courier and I lived there and that's the way we met.
- A: What were you doing at the time that you met him?
- C: Well, I wasn't a Catholic but I went away to a convent school--Saint Xavier's. It was a boarding school.
- A: Was that in Connellsville?
- C: That was in Beatty, Pennsylvania. And we were married in 1896 and we had twin sons in 1898.
- A: What were their names?
- C: One was Raymond and the other one was Tom but Tom died at birth.
- A: Just the two children you had?
- C: Hmm?
- A: Did you have only the two children?
- C: That's all. I had such a hard time and I almost died, but I weathered it.
- A: Apparently, yes.
- C: I've never had an operation.
- A: That's really quite a record.
- C: Well, I won't say that either. I had my tonsils taken out but I was nearly seventy years old when I had them taken out.
- We came from Pittsburgh here. My husband was a news-

paper man in Pittsburgh.

A: When did you come here?

C: We came here in 1921.

A: What were the circumstances of your coming?

C: Well, the paper that he was editor of was sold and I had a sister here [Mrs. Lenore Hoffman] and a brother [Edward Towzey], so we thought we'd take a trip to the Hawaiian Islands. And it was a beautiful spot then. It was a fairyland. So we decided we'd stay here. We were here only two weeks when we bought a home on Prince Edward Avenue. And we sold it and bought a home on Alewa Heights, a big home up there, and we just kept on, you know.

A: Yes. How did he become associated with the Advertiser?

C: Well, he was a newspaper man and they were having trouble with their editors, so they found out who he was and they asked him to take over.

A: What kind of trouble were they having, do you remember?

C: Well, their editors were not satisfactory and he was, of course, higher class, you know. And he took over and he was there thirty-six years.

A: Yes, everybody knew Mr. Coll and Mrs. Coll.

C: When we came here, the Philadelphia Public Ledger was trying to find him and they offered him the editorship of the Philadelphia Public Ledger but he wouldn't take it. He wanted to stay here.

A: What are some of the memories you have about his work with the newspaper?

C: Oh, he loved it. He loved his work and the men who worked under him all adored him. He was a wonderful man. He was unselfish, you know. Of course, he was Irish and he had a temper--he wouldn't let anybody walk on him--but our life was very smooth, the whole sixty-six years.

A: That's very unusual, isn't it?

C: Yes. Oh, we had lots of friends and we went everywhere and the Army and the Navy, you know. We had a very good life.

END OF SIDE 1/1ST TAPE

C: Now what is this [interview] for?

A: Well, it's going to go into a book. We are interviewing many, many people and recording their reminiscences.

C: Kamaainas.

A: Yes, kamaaina families and, of course, you become a kamaaina by the length of time you've been here and by the contributions that you both have made to the Islands. The idea is to record this so that it's preserved, you see, for future use.

C: Yes.

A: I interviewed Mr. [William H.] Borthwick. Do you know Bill Borthwick?

C: Oh yes, he was a great friend of my husband's. They were exactly the same age.

A: Were they really? Because he's going to be a hundred this year in May.

C: Yes, my husband would be too if he was living. He was three years older than I. How is Mr. Borthwick?

A: He's fine.

C: He's all right, then?

A: Oh yes. Oh yes.

C: But he can't see very well, can he?

A: His sight is impaired but he gets around by himself by using a walker.

C: Well, I don't have canes or anything. I don't have to have any.

A: That's fortunate. Well, because of his being unable to see, I guess, he needs to use that.

C: I can do my own cooking and everything like that, you know, if I have to but we have help. We have a woman to come in to wash and iron, and one to clean, and it's very satisfactory. My daughter-in-law is a wonderful girl and Mrs. Ragg--she's British [born in Fiji--^{ed}IFC]--she's a

clever woman, so fine and good.

A: She's a nurse?

C: Yes. And a wonderful friend. Of course I pay her. It makes it nice because there's no friction.

A: You all get along; you're compatible.

C: We get along beautifully. And my granddaughter is coming to visit me in August. She's from Concord, California. She and her husband and my youngest great-granddaughter, Nan [Nanette McCartney], who's thirteen. I'm going to show you a picture of my great-great-granddaughter. (she gets up without difficulty and circles behind my chair to get a framed photograph of the child, Heather Haslett)

A: Isn't she charming.

C: (chuckles) Isn't she a darling.

A: Oh, and such a good picture also. She's delightful; a very delightful child.

C: She has dimples.

A: Yes. She's a beautiful child. Shall I put it (the photograph) over here where you can see it?

C: Sometimes I wear these (attachable dark lenses) and sometimes I don't. (she wore them up during the interview)

A: Now you relax. I'll move forward if I need to.

C: I have an electric reader--books, you know, with the records--and that's how I pass my time; reading. I'm an avid reader, always was. (she was listening to the reader when I arrived) I can see the headlines but I can't see to read the small print. I can see the TV but, of course, not as clearly as if I had good eyes. But I see enough.

A: You see what you need to see.

C: Yes. (chuckles) I have no complaints.

A: What do you remember of your childhood in Pennsylvania?

C: Oh, I had a nice childhood. Just like all small towns, you know.

A: Um hm. There were eleven children. What rank were you?

- C: Well, I was one of the last three. My brothers were grown up and married, practically, when I was born.
- A: Do you recall, when you met Mr. Coll, just how that happened?
- C: Well, I met him when I was about seventeen. (chuckles) I had copper-red hair--I had very beautiful red hair--and and deep dimples and that's what he fell for. (laughter)
- A: And you say that at the time you were attending Saint Xavier's.
- C: And we wore, in those days, dresses sweeping the floor. You didn't dare show your ankles. Look at the generation now.
- A: Yes, how different it is, with mini and midi and all different lengths.
- C: Oh, I think modesty's thrown out the window.
- A: Well, it would seem so, I suppose.
- C: There're still good girls.
- A: Oh yes.
- C: Plenty of them. I know, because my great-granddaughters are good girls.
- A: Now, I wonder if you could try to remember a little bit about what your impressions of the Islands were or what incidents have happened to you.
- C: Oh, when we came here, we were enchanted with the Islands and my husband loved them. We had lived in Pittsburgh then for ten years and it was such a contrast. The climate there was, you know, smoky and dirty. It's different now but at that time it was terrific. When you went to bed at night you had to cover up everything--dressers and things like that.
- A: This was because of coal smoke, was it?
- C: Oh, it was because of the mills there. Pittsburgh was a very rich city. But they have condensed all the smoke and stuff now. It's a very nice place now.
- Of course, our son was a newspaper man too and followed in his father's [footsteps], but his health became very bad. We kept him at home and the doctor thought he should

be in a nursing home. They're terribly expensive, those nursing homes.

A: Yes they are.

C: My husband died up at Maunalani [Hospital]. He was only there five months. He had a stroke.

A: I see. And your son, what was his illness?

C: Well, he had a series of strokes, small ones; tiny ones. He was ill for eight years but his brain was good.

A: What were some of the things that happened to you and your husband that you especially remember--happy times or unusual things that happened?

C: Well, I don't know. He was friends with the governors that we had then. We spent a lot of time in Washington Place and we went to all the admirals' parties and all the generals' parties but my husband never cared too much for social activities.

A: Well, he was such a busy man, I imagine.

C: He felt it was his duty to go. We were just glad that our lives just went on and it was serene, you know. We had a good life.

A: What type of interests did you have when he wasn't working on the newspaper, although I imagine that occupied most of his time?

C: Well, we traveled some.

A: Around the world?

C: No, we didn't travel around the world. We took a plane trip, the four of us--that's my son and his wife. We went to Canada and we traveled all over the United States and Canada. Those days, people didn't go to Europe so fast. They didn't have the planes then like they have now. We took a trip to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji. My sister was a great traveler but I never cared for it.

A: You always liked to get home.

C: I preferred home. You know, sisters can be different. (chuckles)

A: Oh yes, they can; very definitely.

- C: But she loved to travel and she was alone so she did what she wanted. And right now, I haven't seen her for ten years but she visited my granddaughter. She said she was just fine. I think she'd like to come down here but it's too expensive.
- A: It is rather expensive, isn't it?
- C: Oh, it's terrible.
- A: It's much less in California.
- C: You know that labor wants too much, I think. I think they'd wreck this country if we gave up. Of course I'm a Republican; I'm for [Richard M.] Nixon. I think the man is trying to save this country with dignity. I don't want to say anything that goes on there (the recorder), though, that I shouldn't.
- A: Oh, I don't think you have anything to worry about.
- C: There's one person that I think is a menace here in politics. It won't go on there (the recorder) will it?
- A: It's recording now.
- C: I can't say the name.
- A: Well, don't say the name then. If you don't wish to then don't, but if you think there is . . .
- C: Politician woman.
- A: A woman.
- C: I guess you know who she is.
- A: Well I can imagine whom you refer to.
- C: She talks too much.
- A: Um hm. You think she's a menace.
- C: Yes. I don't believe in bias. If a politician is a Democrat and is good, say so. If a Republican is good, say so. I don't believe in running down each other and that's what's happening all the time. The Democrats are running down everything that President Nixon does.
- A: Well, that's the usual way, isn't it, in politics.

C: It's distasteful.

A: Um hm. What do you remember about the old-time politics here? Do you remember any of those old rallies?

C: Oh, I think politics these days seem to be worse than in the old days.

A: In what way?

C: There wasn't so much name-calling.

A: In the old days?

C: Yes.

A: What was your impression of the oldtime politicians?

C: Well, of course we were Republican and we favored the Republicans but we admired many Democrats, too, such as Franklin [Delano] Roosevelt. I think he was a good man. But I don't like name-calling all the time.

A: Um hm. It seems unnecessary.

C: I think that, well, just call it politics, you know.

A: Yes.

C: And I think they've done some pretty bad things here in this HIC business [Honolulu International Center, now the Neal S. Blaisdell Memorial Center]--was never cleared up.

A: You mean that money that was . . .

C: That money that was never cleared up.

A: Something like \$65,000.

C: Yes. Why would they let everybody [ticket sellers] have keys? It sounds pretty careless.

A: It does, doesn't it, because I heard this morning that they've given up trying to figure out where that money went.

C: No. No. People have their suspicions but they can't prove it.

A: Yes. It seems negligent, doesn't it?

C: Yes.

A: Were you pretty much alert to government activities way back in the twenties and thirties and what was happening then?

C: Oh well, things then were sort of taken in course. I don't remember the big hullabaloo that there is today, you know. Fighting for power.

A: When the war broke out, what was your experience that day on December 7th?

C: My husband, you see, was in office in Pittsburgh during the Spanish-American War and then he was in office during the First World War and our son was in the First World War--Ray Coll, Jr. And he was in office the last World War.

A: When you say "in office," what do you mean?

C: Well, he was editor then. He went through many wars.

A: As editor, though, you mean.

C: As editor.

A: What were you doing on December 7th [1941]?

C: I always drove the car and I took him in to work early. I think--wasn't it on a Sunday?

A: Yes it was.

C: Yes, Sunday morning. And coming back, I saw all the planes flying above and I wondered what in the world was the matter. And when I got home I called him and I said, "What's wrong, Raymond, there're so many planes out?" He said, "I was trying to get you." He said, "The Japanese have attacked us." And one bomb fell practically two doors away from our home.

A: And where were you living at that time?

C: On Lewers Street. [It was Lewers Road then--edIFC]

A: Oh really?

C: I went out and jumped in my car and went up to Manoa to stay with a friend up there on the highway up there.

- A: Who was that friend, do you remember?
- C: Her name was Mrs. Halley Moulton and she had a big home up there. I think it was three stories high. We stayed down in the lower part all day. We didn't have anything to eat but peanuts. (laughs)
- A: Oh really?
- C: And my husband went up to Frank Woolley's home and stayed up there until we got together again. And when it quieted down, we just went back home. And you know, they had daylight saving time then and, boy, we had to be careful. We practically lived in the dark.
- A: Yes, because of black-outs.
- C: Yes, black-outs. I don't mean daylight savings, I mean black-outs. We had it all the time while we lived at the Halekulani, you know. That was up to 1945. I took my scales into my bedroom from the bathroom and forgot about it and fell over them and broke my wrist. (laughs)
- A: Oh dear. This was during the black-out times.
- C: And there was a doctor there but he was an army man, he couldn't doctor me, so I had to get another doctor. I forget what his name was but he set my wrist, put it in a cast.
- A: What do you remember about the Massie case? Do you remember that Massie case? [Alleged rape of Thalia Massie, 1931]
- C: Oh, absolutely. She wanted my husband to come up to the house when they had this man there, you know, that they killed [Joseph Kahahawai]. But he didn't go up.
- A: What did she want him to come for?
- C: She wanted him to be a witness. [See pp. 39-41]
- A: Oh, I see.
- C: Something, I think he was sick or something at the time, but she wrote him a letter. He had that letter and I forget what he did with that letter. He sold all his private stuff to some collector but I don't know his name. [I believe it was Robert Van Dyke, formerly of Hilo, who bought his books, papers, et cetera.--^{ed}IFC]
- A: Oh, I wish you did. What do you recall about when Hawaii

became a state? Was Mr. Coll in favor of Hawaii becoming a state?

C: Oh yes.

A: He was in favor of it then.

C: Yes, um hm.

A: What was your reaction when . . .

C: Well, Lorrin P. Thurston was the publisher and Raymond was the editor. Of course, Lorrin P. Thurston set the policy [of the Advertiser].

A: But how did YOU feel about Hawaii becoming a state?

C: Well, we always admired [Joseph R.] Joe Farrington. We think he did the greatest work in making this become a state. He practically gave his life.

A: Yes. Do you think that the changes that have occurred since then have been as a result of Hawaii becoming a state? These major changes.

C: Well, I don't know. Myself, sometimes I wonder if we weren't happier then than we are now. You know, they appointed the governors from Washington. I think we had a better quality. 'Course I can't say anything about [the present governor is implied] . . . I don't admire him. I guess he's a good man.

A: Well, I think he's--well, what I think is neither here nor there. In what ways do you think that Hawaii has changed the most?

C: Oh yes, I think it's changed. I think the Hawaiians have been pushed out of place. They give them nothing.

A: Do you remember any especially amusing incidents that happened to you?

C: No, I can't say. My husband had to be careful, you know. He was in the public eye. He was a great friend of [William F.] Bill Quinn's, and [Joseph Boyd] Poindexter was another friend and Lawrence [McCully] Judd was a great friend of his. William Quinn, when he was governor, gave him a stag party on his eightieth birthday [at Washington Place].

A: What do you recall? (she laughs) What did he have to say

about that?

C: Yes.

A: Was this at Mr. Quinn's home?

C: This was when Quinn was in office. He was a good governor.

A: It would have been at Washington Place, then, the stag party?

C: Yes. Yes, uh huh. And also when [Governor Ingram M.] Stainback was in too [1942-51].

A: What? What happened then?

C: Well, Mrs. Stainback became ill and she went to the Mainland for an operation and died and when his term was up, he retired. He has died since.

A: Yes, he's passed away.

C: Don't you think I've said enough? (laughter)

A: Well, I feel as if I haven't even really begun, in a way, because I know you have so many memories--ninety-seven years of memories.

C: Oh yes, I've seen a lot and experienced a lot but things slip away from you, don't you know, then they come back.

A: Yes, well, this is why I keep trying to mention events that might call forth some of these things that you remember.

C: Yes, uh huh. Well, my husband never had strong feelings against people or anything like that. He was a very kind man and he never liked to hear criticism. And of course I respected him. Bill Borthwick could tell you about him. They were very close friends. Yes, he was very fond of Mr. Borthwick. He was tax commissioner, you know.

A: That's right, yes. His story is very interesting also; very interesting.

C: And he was a great admirer of Lorrin P. Thurston's father. He was Lorrin A. Thurston. He collected shells--the elder one. He had a great shell collection. I don't know, I think he gave it to something.

END OF SIDE 2/1ST TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

- A: All right. You mentioned that you celebrated your golden wedding anniversary.
- C: It was in 1946 and we couldn't find a place big enough because we had six hundred people there and we had it where the golf club is out Kahala way. [The party was held in a temporary building constructed by the military at Waialae Country Club during the war.--edIFC]
- A: Where the Kahala Hilton is--Waialae Country Club?
- C: Yes, Waialae. And we had six hundred people and we had nine bartenders (laughter).
- A: With that many people you'd have to have.
- C: Well, when we built the big home on the ocean front [4821 Kainapau Place]--we had a place with twenty thousand square feet right on the ocean--we had a housewarming and we had another six hundred people at that.
- A: My word. Who were some of your guests?
- C: We had our old friends in the Army and the Navy and the Dillinghams and all those people. But we had a good time then. Stanley Kennedy was there. He was living then. He was an oldtimer. Walter [F.] Dillingham and Louise, the Thurstons, and, oh, we just had a great big crowd. We had a big tent on the ocean.
We sold our home out there for \$100,000, which was cheap, and the man was a Hollywood producer who bought it --I forget his name--and he sold it to an admiral [Adrian H. Perry] for \$120,000. Now it's worth \$200,000 but that's the way property went up.
- A: Yes, that's right. It's all very high.
- C: Yes, it's a big place. But you know, in those days we didn't have the thievery that we have today. And when we came here we never locked the doors and we were always serenaded by the beach boys. I think they're spoiling the Hawaiian music.
- A: Oh, in what way?
- C: They're taking the soul out of it and the feeling. They're bringing everything up to date. They don't sing the old

songs as they were written. No, they do not.

A: No, they've jived it up or sing it in a haole way.

C: They jig everything, you know, and I think the dances are terrible. 'Course the young people like them. Times are bound to change.

A: Even Diamond Head is quite changed.

C: Oh yes, it is. People up there. We used to go up there a lot to Chinn Ho's, you know, and those people that lived up along there--the Magoons and Dr. [Nils P.] Larsen. They've changed all of those old places.

A: Are you interested in art or anything like that?

C: No. (chuckles) I'm not artistic. I used to be interested more in cooking.

A: In cooking, ah yes. What have you considered your specialty?

C: Well, I don't know. I used to cook many dishes and try them. I was considered a good cook.

A: Did you have a special dish that you . . .

C: No.

A: No? Just everything.

C: Lots of them. I never cooked anything till I was married. I learned it all because I was married young. I was married at the age of twenty-one.

A: So you had finished high school.

C: Yes.

A: Did you go on to college?

C: No, I didn't.

A: You were working then at the time that you were married.

C: Well, I never worked. Oh yes I did. I owned an Oriental shop.

A: Oh did you?

C: Yes.

A: Where was that?

C: On Kalakaua Avenue near Beach Walk. And I owned that four years [1928-32] and then the depression came and I sold out. And I had many customers that came to me from the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel]. I had the same buyers but I could afford to sell cheaper. Oh, I had the Army and Navy. They just walked in on me.

A: I guess they would. What was your shop called?

C: Coll's Oriental Shop. If I knew what I know now, I'd have hoarded some jade. I had chunks of jade that big. I bought from Helen Burton. She died here recently. She was one of my buyers. I had two buyers in China and one in Japan.

A: Was Helen Burton a buyer in China?

C: Yes, she owned the Camel's Bell.

A: Oh yes, I read about that.

C: A very famous store. She died about a year ago.

A: Did you operate the shop yourself?

C: I operated it with my daughter-in-law helping me--Mrs. Ray Coll, Jr., his first wife. She died.

A: What did you like most about doing that?

C: Oh, I had beautiful jewelry and underwear, and lounging pajamas were very famous then. My husband used to say I made more money than he did while I had it. But I was always a great saver. He didn't like to handle money so he gave it to me and I saved it.

A: What do you remember about Waikiki in those days?

C: Well, I used to swim a lot. I swam every day for about five years and walked home, you know, but we always wore something around us in those days. They didn't allow you to walk on the street with bathing suits. Now they don't wear anything scarcely.

A: Anything else that you can recall about Waikiki in those days?

C: No, it was mostly. . . . We moved to Kahala in 1950. We had two homes there. We had one on Kahala Avenue, we sold it, and then we built on the ocean, and then we came here [to Diamond Head Apartments].

We owned a big home on Alewa Heights. We bought it in 1925. It was right above Lester Petrie's [former mayor of Honolulu, now deceased] and Captain Johnson's.

A: Who was Captain Johnson?

C: Well, he was captain of the Lurline and his daughter lives here in this building. I forget who she married. She married a man--I forget his name--here. I guess it doesn't matter.

A: Did you have any great events up at Alewa Heights that you can recall?

C: Oh, we had a big home. We entertained quite a lot and we had a big basement that held two hundred people. We had dances. We had a big time up there then. We sold it to Dr. Hanchett, Bishop [Edwin Lani] Hanchett's brother.

A: Oh yes, uh huh. There was a great deal more of dancing in those days--giving dances--than now, wasn't there?

C: Oh yes, people danced more then. When I was young I liked to dance. Those were prohibition days.

A: Oh, were they?

C: Yes.

A: Oh yes, they would have been until [President Franklin D.] Roosevelt [took office in 1933 and the 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition].

C: Yes.

A: (laughing) Were you ever raided?

C: Oh no. No. We didn't have any drunken parties or anything like that. Oh, people then, they were satisfied with normal things. And then later on, after I sold my shop and all, I went in for bridge. That was my hobby; I played bridge.

A: Do you remember some of the partners that you had?

C: Oh yes. I used to play with Mrs. Harry Gray and Miss Millicent Nash and Mrs. Lester Petrie. Oh I played with--I

couldn't tell you how many people.

A: No, I guess not.

C: No. They're all gone, most of them. Well, Millie Nash moved to England; Daisy Gray died and Mary Petrie died. Mr. Petrie used to be mayor of Honolulu.

A: I remember Mayor Petrie.

C: His daughter, Ramona [Mrs. Walter F. McGuire], plays golf. Daisy Gray was Mrs. Harry Gray in Nuuanu.

A: Yes, that's another thing that there was a great deal of, too, I guess--bridge socials and such.

C: Yes. I played with many people--Mrs. [Harold (Eve)] Moffett and all those people. I couldn't name them. But there was a fad then for bridge, don't you know, and everybody was playing bridge. I thought I was pretty good. (laughter) I won many trophies.

A: Did you really?

C: Yes, surely. We all did.

A: Do you still have your trophies?

C: Oh no, I don't know what became of them. When we moved to Halekulani, I got rid of everything. I had them all packed in trunks and then finally I didn't have any place for them and gave them away. Gave my granddaughter most everything.

A: Well, that was a good thing to do, I think. They're heirlooms then.

C: Are you going to take my picture?

A: Yes, I'd like to. Yes.

C: Maybe I ought to put my earrings on.

A: You do whatever you'd like to do.

C: Well, I'm going to put my earrings on.

A: All right.

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C: My mother's mother was a Fitzhugh of Virginia.

A: And you said that they were a noted family.

C: Oh, they're a very aristocratic family. My grandmother's cousin married George Washington's stepdaughter, Martha Custis' daughter. She married a Fitzhugh, a full cousin of my grandmother, and she [Grandmother] was at the wedding. George Washington married a widow, Martha Custis.

A: Do you remember what the first name of that Fitzhugh person was?

C: No, I don't.

A: What do you remember of . . .

C: My grandmother talking about it and telling us.

A: I see. How about things that your mother told you? Do you remember things about her family?

C: Oh, my mother had eleven children. She was so busy having children (chuckles). She was a wonderful mother.

A: You must have had a large home.

C: Well, my father's father was a graduate of Oxford University.

A: Yes, you mentioned that.

C: And he became eventually an Episcopalian bishop and he came to this country in 1834 and my father was born in 1836 in New York. His wife, my grandmother, was a linguist. She spoke five different languages. And they both lived to a great age.

A: What were their names, do you recall?

C: Their name was T-O-W-Z-E-Y.

A: Oh, that's right, it would be on your father's side. But what was Grandmother's name before she married?

C: Her name was Ann Davis. She was English.

- A: Are you named after her?
- C: Yes, I was but they brought it down to Annie. My husband always called me Nan--nickname. He liked Nan better.
- A: I see. Your great-granddaughter is named Nan, isn't she? The thirteen-year-old.
- C: Yes, she's named after me. I only have one granddaughter. Her name is Alice and she graduated from Punahou School.
- A: And who did she marry?
- C: Her first husband died. [Richard] Dick McCartney. Her husband now is George [A.] Young and he's a wonderful man. And she is still in her forties. She [Mary Alice Coll, class of 1941] graduated in the class with Lila Watumull [Mrs. Brij L. Sahney].
- A: Oh, did she really?
- C: Oh yes. Lila was quite a friend of Alice's. They used to visit back and forth. She [Alice] is coming to see me August 2nd with her husband and two daughters. I have a great-great-granddaughter, Heather Haslett.
- A: Yes, you showed me her picture. Other than Nan, what are the names of your other great-granddaughters?
- C: Cynthia and Nan and Diana, the mother of this child [Heather]. We call her Dee--DD. They all write to me and they're very loving and kind. It makes my life happy. And I have a wonderful daughter-in-law and a wonderful companion, so I want for nothing.
- A: You were talking about your mother being so busy having babies and the eleven children in the family and all; and your father had a leather shop in [Connellsville].
- C: Yes, yes.
- A: Now what do you remember about your father?
- C: Well, when I married I left this town [Connellsville] and went to live in Pittsburgh. This town was sixty miles away. And of course, my interest then was in my own family. I had twin boys.
- A: Yes. Before your marriage, though, I'm interested in what you can recall of your life or the times before you were married. What did your family do together?

C: In those days, when I was young, there wasn't even a telephone. And I remember the first automobile.

A: What was it that you saw, the first one?

C: It was a Packard. (chuckles) I remember the man that had it. Oh, it was a funny looking thing, you know, but everybody was out on the street to see it. (chuckles)

A: Yes, because it was a novelty.

C: We were married twenty-five years before we could afford one.

A: Yes. The times have changed. Youngsters twenty years old now marry and have everything that others spent many years acquiring.

C: Yes. My husband and I were married sixty-six years when he passed away and I can't remember ever having a quarrel with him. He was the kindest man in the world and the most unselfish. His name is in the Hall of Fame as an editor. He was editor of the Advertiser for 36 years and he was much beloved.

A: How did he happen to be in the Hall of Fame? How did that come about?

C: Well, somebody voted him in there, I don't know who. I have the papers telling about it but I have them packed away someplace. I think the governor of the territory had something to do with it--Oren E. Long--and the newspaper fraternity. [He was selected to be in the Honolulu Press Club's Hall of Fame--edIFC]

A: Do you recall what year that was approximately?

C: Well, he died in 1962.

A: Would he have been nominated for the Hall of Fame before or after his death?

C: After his death.

A: I see. Did he receive any other outstanding honors such as that that you can recall?

C: He was praised very highly by the men who worked under him. He was greatly beloved by the force.

A: The work force at the newspaper.

- C: Yes. Well, as time went on he made more money and he let me handle the money and I saved it. He wasn't interested in money, so he let me save it and I saved up. All we have I saved and it's plenty too. (chuckles)
- A: I guess so. You wouldn't be here [in a luxurious apartment] if you hadn't.
- C: Well, I sold our home in Kahala for \$100,000. Now it's owned by an admiral and he wants \$200,000. You know, that's the way property's gone up.
- A: Yes.
- C: We lived at the Halekulani Hotel [six] years during the war years. We moved there in the spring of 1943.
- A: Would you tell something about how the Halekulani was then?
- C: Oh, the Halekulani: all the noted people that passed through here, it seemed, stopped at the Halekulani. And we had a big cottage and we entertained all the war correspondents, the top ones that came through. My son was a war correspondent. We had a grand time.
- A: Was there anything about the Halekulani that you especially liked?
- C: Well yes, I liked everything about it. People were friendly and I used to play some bridge there. I used to be a bridge player, but I did Red Cross work during the war. We had a unit there. We made things--bandages and things.
- Oh, I've had a very good life and a very happy one. We were happy before we became prosperous; just as happy. We were happily married, that's the point.
- A: Yes, yes. In sickness or in health; in poverty or in wealth.
- C: My husband used to say we were kindred souls.
- A: Yes, you must have been. You must be.
- C: Yes, we were. I have much to be thankful for. And still, my life is happy. I have good health.
- A: Well, you have happy lines in your face.
- C: I have my limitations. I don't try to do something I

shouldn't, you know. I stay home and rest and read and I watch TV. I can see it enough. And I read the papers, both of them. I mean, my companion reads them to me what I can't see to read. I have this illuminated reader, you know.

A: Yes, I noticed that. It's a magnifying glass with a light.

C: Magnifying, illuminated.

A: Very handy thing. I'm going to be turning this tape over shortly so I don't want to get started on something and have it cut off. I guess there's a little bit more left.

C: We have lived in this apartment twelve years.

END OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

A: Where were you--I guess you were still in Pittsburgh--when women first got the right to vote?

C: I remember that.

A: Do you remember that? Now what do you remember about that?

C: (chuckling) Oh, I guess I wasn't too interested.

A: You weren't too interested at the time in politics and voting.

C: No, I never was interested in politics. I went into business once. I had an Oriental shop. But I never was interested in politics at all. Neither was my husband, except for its news value. He was a Republican himself but he never talked about it. He printed the news, both sides. He was neutral. The newspaper was neutral then. Now the Advertiser seems to lean to the Democrats. I don't know if I'm wrong or not. I wouldn't like that said. I don't want to criticize.

Did you talk to [William H.] Bill Borthwick?

A: Yes I did. In fact, I talked with him three different times.

C: He doesn't see very well but he knew me.

A: Tell about your meeting him on Sunday [May 21, 1972 on the occasion of his 100th birthday celebration].

C: Mr. Borthwick and my husband, you know, were great friends because they were born the same year. My husband spoke of him often as one of his very best friends.

A: How did they happen to meet?

C: Well, my husband was editor and he was tax commissioner and my husband knew everybody. People came to the office when they wanted something in the paper. They just became friends because they were pretty much alike. Mr. Borthwick's a very fine man.

A: Yes he is and he's very humble.

C: Yes, he's a very kind person and he believes the world would be far better if people could be kinder. And I believe that too. They should try to be tolerant but politics is politics. It's a name-calling game.

A: Seems to be.

C: Seems to be. (laughs)

A: Before we started taping, you mentioned that you had gone to visit Mr. Borthwick--you and Mrs. Ragg went, did you?--on Sunday.

C: Yes, we went with the Watumulls [Mrs. G. J., David and Sheila Watumull] and, oh, I had a wonderful visit with him. I sat with him and talked quite a long time. He talked about my husband and their friendship and all. Oh yes, I had a long talk with him. Even went back several times and sat by him and talked. He kissed me.

A: He kissed you. Isn't that wonderful.

C: About sixteen times. (laughter)

A: So glad to see you.

C: Now don't say that in this write-up.

A: Did you see him on television on his birthday? On Monday night he was on television.

C: Oh, was he? I didn't see him.

A: Yes, on the news. On Channel 4. What he said was that he would like to live his life the same way that he has and live to be a hundred again but, when he got to be a hundred, he'd like to be killed by some jealous husband.

C: He'd like to what?

A: Be killed by some jealous husband. (laughter)

C: Isn't that something. He likes the ladies, but he spoke nicely about his wife.

A: Oh, he always does.

C: She must have lived to a pretty good age.

A: Yes, I believe so.

C: In her eighties or something like that.

A: But he certainly misses her.

C: Yes. Well, he may live two or three more years, you know.

A: Oh, I should think so. He's in fine shape.

C: I had a friend when I lived at the Halekulani--Mrs. Hedemann--and she lived to be a hundred and three.

A: Oh yes, Mrs. Hedemann. What was her first name?

C: I don't know. She was the mother of Alice Castle. Mrs. Harold [K.L.] Castle. [Alice Henrietta Sofie Hedemann] She lived there and she used to take her cocktail every evening with us. There was a crowd that used to sit around together and we were with that crowd, you know.

A: Yes.

C: Edna B. Lawson lived there too.

A: She was a newswoman, wasn't she?

C: She was the society editor. They don't have society anymore.

A: Not very much any longer.

C: No society. I don't think they have the Junior League anymore.

A: They may have it but actively doing other things now.
(recorder turned off and on again at her request)

How do you feel about Women's Liberation? Have you been aware of that?

- C: Oh, I think it depends on the woman. I think the woman's place is first to see that her home, if she has a husband, is taken care of. A man can't run a home. It takes a wife to run a home. If you walk out and leave him, why, some other woman will take him. (chuckles)
- A: How would you feel about a woman president and do you think there ever will be a woman president?
- C: Oh, I wouldn't want to see it.
- A: You wouldn't?
- C: No. No.
- A: Do you think it's possible?
- C: Anything's possible these days (Kathy chuckles) but, no, I wouldn't want to see a woman as President of the United States.
- A: Why is that?
- C: Well, the women are pushing the men out of everything. I don't like to see that. Politics is a dirty game, you know, and it hardens a woman. I think politics spoils a woman, although there were Hawaiian women here in politics but we never heard any bad language or anything. Everything was peaceful.
- A: Yes, Alice Kamokila Campbell was one of them.
- C: Yes, Alice Kamokila Campbell.
- A: Did you know her?
- C: Yes, I knew her and I knew her sister, Princess [Abigail Campbell] Kawanānākoa. She used to come to my shop and buy Oriental goods from me. Her chauffeur would drive and she couldn't get out of the car, she was so big, but I'd take things out to her, don't you know.
- A: Yes, isn't that interesting. Do you recall some of the types of things she was interested in most in your shop? What did she like the most?
- C: Oh, she liked jade--I sold lots of jade--and beautiful underwear, all handmade. Oh, I had a very big clientele. They used to come from the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] because I had the same buyers and I sold cheaper.

- A: What do you remember about Alice Kamokila Campbell?
- C: Well, we went to a big luau. (chuckles) It was wonderful. She lived somewhere out [in Ewa]. She was a very fine-looking woman. Her daughter lived right next door to my son in Kahala.
- A: What would that name be?
- C: I don't know what her name was then. [Helen Kala MacFarlane married Alvar Alfred Norgard.] But I know she lived right next door to him. He sold his place and lost track of them.
- A: You went to the luau that Alice K. Campbell gave.
- C: Yes, yes.
- A: What do you remember about that?
- C: All the dignitaries were there--the Army and the Navy and the governor and everybody. Oh, a huge one and everything was delicious, you know, the best. She was a very fine person.
- And then there was Princess [Elizabeth Kahanu Kaauwai] Kalaniana'ole, [the wife of Prince Kuhio]. She lived in Waikiki when we lived in Waikiki. Her dog used to come to our house all the time.
- A: What kind of dog was it?
- C: I don't know. It was some kind of a long-haired small dog. But her dog had a case on our dog (laughter) and every time that dog would come over, I would take it over to her and give it to her. She asked me if I wouldn't send it home. It was a female dog and ours was a male. We had a fox terrier. We never allowed them to get together. But that's the way I knew her. She was a very democratic person; very nice.
- A: That's a wonderful expression to use to describe a person, that she was democratic. I like that.
- C: Yes. Oh, we knew everybody. We went to all the Army and Navy parties and we just went everywhere.
- A: Would you try to describe some of the parties--I mean, the things about the parties you remember then--because I don't think they have them like they did before.
- C: Oh, they don't have the cocktail parties like they used to

have them but there were hundreds of people at all of them. They were very big. We had a boy that drove us to these parties and we had some big parties ourselves.

A: What about the early times in Hawaii that you experienced did you like the best?

C: Well, when we came here Kalakaua Avenue was just like a-- they had the buffalos working in the fields and ducks swimming around in ponds and they had vegetable gardens. We used to stop along the way and buy all our vegetables along Kalakaua Avenue. They didn't cost hardly anything, you know. Oh, everything was very cheap and good.

A: Were there any shops at all in Waikiki then?

C: Oh yes, the Walsh Dress Shop was then the biggest dress shop we had. They had a downtown shop and a Waikiki shop. They had various shops. Mrs. Clark managed the one in Waikiki and Mrs. Clark, after Mrs. Walsh closed her shop and passed away, opened her own shop. Mrs. Clark. You remember her.

A: I'm trying to think which Mrs. Clark you mean. Did she live in Manoa?

C: I don't know where she lived but she was a nice-looking woman and she had a shop on Kalakaua Avenue.

A: Do you remember her first name?

C: No, I don't remember her first name but she passed away a couple of years ago. She had a shop then on Lewers Street. Forget what she called her husband. It's my memory.

A: Were the buffalos and ducks on the mauka side?

C: As we came out, they were on the mauka side. That's the mountain side. Well, coming out Waikiki, they would be on the left and the gardens were down further on the right. They raised vegetables. All vegetables. That whole section was growing vegetables.

A: That would be near the Ala Wai Canal, then.

C: Yes, beyond it. On down beyond it, right off King Street. Clear up.

A: Do you remember some of the people who were living in Waikiki at that time?

C: Yes. Our first home we bought was on Prince Edward [Street] and Mrs. [Ellen] Fullard-Leo lived on the corner. I think she still lives there. [Her property became the site of King's Alley in 1972.] I met a woman up at Bill Borthwick's Sunday who was a neighbor of mine.

A: Who was that?

C: I think her name was Cavanaugh. She had lived there alone and Colonel Hathaway lived right across the street. Judge Hathaway. Of course, they're all gone. Oh, I could name various people but we moved from there. Let me see. We sold that place and moved to Alewa Heights--the big home on Alewa Heights.

A: How did you happen to decide to go back down to Waikiki and go to the Halekulani to live?

C: Well, we were living on Lewers Street. We owned a home on Lewers Street when we went to the Halekulani. Our son was a war correspondent and he was gone and there was nobody at home but myself and my husband and he said, "Let's sell this place and go live at the Halekulani," and we sold it. And then, after we came from the Halekulani, we bought a home from Jay Quealy out in Kahala.

A: How did you happen to decide to do that?

C: We got a little bit tired of hotel living and we wanted a home and we wanted to have our grandchild and great-grandchildren visit us so we bought the Quealy home on Kahala Avenue. And then when we lived there a few years we built the big home up front on the ocean [4821 Kainapau Place]. We were getting older all the time. (chuckles)

A: Did you go swimming a lot while you were out there?

C: We had a housewarming--six hundred people--once and we had lots of dinner parties. Governor Bill Quinn gave my husband a stag party on his eightieth birthday.

A: What was your husband's favorite dish?

C: Oh, meat. He was a meat eater. Steak. (chuckles) He liked plain food.

A: Well, steak is as plain as you can get, isn't it, really?

C: Yes. (laughter) It's a good thing that meat, then, you didn't think about the price of it. Filets, we used to eat. He liked his meat partially rare.

- A: Um hm. And what about you?
- C: Oh, I never thought of myself. I eat everything or anything. I've no favorites.
- A: Are you also a meat eater?
- C: No, not especially. I don't eat meat at all now. No, I never eat meat.
- A: Does that mean you're a vegetarian now or do you eat fish?
- C: I'm not a vegetarian. For protein, I eat eggs. And I like vegetables and I eat custard. I eat lightly. And I eat bread and jelly in the morning. That's all I eat. And I like mangoes. I just adore mangoes. Olive too. Howard Case sends me some from the [Advertiser] office and sometimes Irva comes out with three or four that somebody gives her. She doesn't care for them. She gives them to us. But we always look forward to the mango season.
- A: Howard Case must have been a very good friend. You must have known him quite well.
- C: Oh yes, Howard's always been a good friend of ours. He still lives on the corner of Seaside [Avenue] and the Ala Wai. I think he lives there alone. His wife [Kathryn] died, and his wife's sister [Grace Ralston], and he has a son. I think he lives over on the other side of the island someplace. Oh, he's quite happy and quite healthy. He works with Irva. She's assistant Sunday editor of the Advertiser. She loves her work. She goes early in the morning and comes home between five and six [o'clock]. Olive, my companion, she has a bad back. She never complains. She has a lot of fortitude. Oh, we're very happy. You know, you wouldn't think three women could live together and be happy.
- A: It's unusual.
- C: But there's not a particle of friction. Never. We respect each other.
- A: Would you try to remember some of the social events, such as concerts or things of that sort. Do you recall any in particular?
- C: Well, we used to go. My husband didn't care for symphony but I used to go occasionally to the symphony. But I like music. Now, my favorite program is the Lawrence Welk program [on TV]. I never miss it. They've taken so much

soul out of music, you know; there's too much jig in it, but his music is more satisfying. I like him too. He's a nice person. So we never miss Lawrence Welk.

Olive and I have programs we listen to every day. They start at twelve o'clock.

- A: The serials. I know you do and that's why I keep my eye on the watch.
- C: We listen an hour and then we rest and wait another half hour and then we listen another hour and then we're through with it until news time. We listen to the news every evening, all three of us. Oh, I like to know what's going on.
- A: Well, you certainly do know all right.
- C: Oh yes, I like to keep up. I still have my interests. I don't think of myself at all or my age. I'm not going to sit around thinking about myself. (chuckles)
- A: You and Mr. Borthwick have the same kind of philosophy, I think.
- C: Oh, I think so too. We exchanged opinions. I laughed at him. He got his arm around me and he kissed me. (laughs)
- A: Well, you're such a good friend, you know, and so he must have been very delighted to have you there.
- C: I said, "It's the first time I've been kissed by a man since my husband passed away."
- A: How about that. Since he was your husband's best friend, why . . .
- C: Oh, he was just a wonderful friend. He spoke so nicely about him. He said we need more kindness in people. Kindness seems to have gone out of most people.
- A: I hope not.
- C: Especially politicians. They don't hesitate to call each other names.
- A: Everybody's life has ups and downs. What do you think was your worst down in your life?
- C: I can't remember that we ever had any terrible luck. We met what came and solved it. We didn't have any money when we were married. In those days parents didn't help

the children. You paddled your own canoe. You made your bed, you know. We didn't expect anything. We weathered all the few downs we had. We were just fortunate, I guess. See, we were here only a short time when he was made editor of the paper and he was there for thirty-six years and he had a constant position.

A: So you had a great deal of security.

C: Yes. Sure.

A: You said that after you married you left Connellsville and went to Pittsburgh, is that correct?

C: Yes, yes.

A: So you must have stayed in Pittsburgh until . . .

C: We were married in Pittsburgh at the cathedral.

A: What cathedral was it?

C: I was visiting a girl I went to school with and he came out to see me and he was a reporter then on a paper and he said, "Let's get married." And I said, "When?" He says, "Tomorrow." (laughs) I said, "I have to go back to school." He said, "No, we're going to get married." So we went and got married.

I wasn't a Catholic but I went to a Catholic seminary --boarding school. When summer vacation came, I went to visit this friend and he came to see me.

END OF SIDE 2/2ND TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/3RD TAPE

A: Now you said that you met Mr. Coll at a dancing school.

C: Yes, and he couldn't dance and he never did dance. He didn't like dancing. He liked sports. He used to play baseball and football, and bicycling--races and all that stuff. I was only seventeen and my brother took me to this dancing school and I was a good dancer. The teacher used to take me out on the floor to show them--the rest--a new dance because I was a natural dancer. So I saw him sitting there by himself and I said to the fellow that was with me, "Look at that fellow sitting over there by himself. Let's go over and talk with him." He said, "Oh, he's a new fellow in town." I said, "Well, he looks lonely." And he took me over, he said his name's Coll and introduced me, and he said he'd asked another girl to dance

and walked away and I sat down and talked with him.

I induced him to get up on the floor and let me show him. I dragged him around (Kathy laughs) but he said he couldn't dance, so there was a big moon and we went and got up on chairs on our knees and looked at the moon and talked nonsense, you know. Then he said he was coming out to see me and I said, "My father doesn't allow me to have company. I'm too young." He says, "Well, we'll put one over on him. Ask your mother." (laughter) And he used to come out, but he had to get out of the house by ten o'clock. (laughs) And that just went on until we were married.

- A: Then he had to move to Pittsburgh with another newspaper.
- C: Well, he had an offer there when I was away at school and he went down there, see.
- A: Uh huh. But you said you were married when you were twenty-one. You met him when you were . . .
- C: I was twenty-one. I was only seventeen when I met him. So at our marriage, he only had eight dollars left in his pocket. (laughs)
- A: When he asked you to marry him?
- C: Yes.
- A: And yet you were married in the cathedral. How did you manage to do that?
- C: Well, after we were married he only had eight left, you know. He bought the ring and paid the bishop. We were married by this bishop that used to come up to the boarding school where I went. I knew him. I had shaken his hand.
- A: Do you remember his name?
- C: Yes, I remember him. I don't remember his name now. It's on the [marriage] certificate, you know.
I used to play in the orchestra at school; I played a guitar. And I took piano lessons. And I had lots of pictures and our house burned down and they all burned up.
- A: How did that happen?
- C: Well, we were over visiting my mother in Buckhannon, West Virginia and there was a short wire somewhere in the attic that caught.

A: A short circuit.

C: Because I told him [Mr. Coll] one time when I went up in the attic, I said, "It smells like something was burning up there," and he said, "Oh, you're just imagining it." And I said, "Well, there's a peculiar smell like something scorching." And it was; it had been doing that.

A: Uh huh, and the whole house burned down.

C: We finally saved the piano. And I had a beautiful brass bed and they just came in and they took the brass bed and they sent it away and had it done over. (chuckles)
That's all we had left but we had insurance.

A: The piano and the brass bed were the only two items saved.

C: That's all we had but, fortunately, we had insurance and we just went back to housekeeping again in another place.

A: Was this your family's home or your own home?

C: It was a rental home. We didn't own anything then but in 1907 he went to Arizona to take over what they call the Kelly Papers. He had three papers and after we were out there a couple of years he leased one of the papers. We were out there about four years and then we came back.

A: Came back where? Pittsburgh?

C: Well, we lived in Long Beach, [California] awhile, then we decided to come back to Connellsville. And then we were there awhile and we went back to Pittsburgh. And then when they sold the paper in Pittsburgh we came out here [to Hawaii].

A: So you actually had lived in Arizona, and then Long Beach, California, back to Connellsville, then to . . .

C: We were living down on the beach at Long Beach. We were just there on a vacation but we didn't like it too well there. There're so many fleas--sand fleas--there.

A: He wasn't working on a paper at that time?

C: He wasn't working at all then because he'd sold his Kelly lease. So his brother [James Alóysius (Al) Coll] was with him and he went back East. He went out first and then I went out with my son, and I had a bird in a cage and a pup. (laughter)

- A: What kind of a bird, canary?
- C: Canary; and we just got there when it fell off its cage because of the altitude. It died; and the pup fell over the side of a hill and was killed.
- A: Oh for heaven sake.
- C: But my son then was nine years old and he spent all of his time in the baggage car. (both chuckle) It used to take a week to go out there--slow trains. My husband loved train riding. He didn't care for flying.
- A: And how about you? You never liked traveling very much at all, did you?
- C: No, I got sick. I always got travel sick. All I needed to do was to look at a boat, but I got over it. It's all in the head. (Kathy laughs) I think I've talked enough, don't you?
- A: You be the judge.
- C: Oh, I think I've talked enough. We lived a good life and a long life. I have still much to be thankful for and I'm going to see my granddaughter and my great-granddaughter in August. They're going to come here and live in the Watumull apartment.

END OF SIDE 1/3RD TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/4TH TAPE

- A: Tell about the Cadillac, would you please?
- C: I drove it all through my eighty-seventh year, and my eighty-eighth year, my husband was in the hospital at Maunalani and I bought this small Buick. It was easier to drive up there. And I drove that all during my eighty-eighth year. I sold my Cadillac. I turned it in to Schuman and got the Buick. And then, when I started to ride in taxis, I rode in my own old Cadillac. (chuckles) Some taxi driver had it. It was in fine condition.
- A: But it was just too large. You wanted a smaller car.
- C: Oh, it was big.
- A: So the last car you owned was a Buick, is that right?
- C: A Buick. I only had it a year and I sold it and we've been

riding in taxis ever since.

Now my sight didn't fail me until I was ninety-three. I had good sight up until the age of ninety-three and suddenly I got up and I couldn't read the morning paper and called Dr. [Harold] Moffett and he told me not to worry about it; it was my central vision and it was age. And I'm no worse than when I was ninety-three. Now I'm ninety-seven. (recorder turned off and on again)

With my electric reader, I read all kinds of books. I've read all the classics and I like romance and I like westerns and mysteries. I think my favorite mystery is Rex Stout's. But I read all of them--Agatha Christie and everything.

- A: You mentioned that you had just recently read, before you started reading Wuthering Heights . . .
- C: I read Pride and Prejudice and Emma.
- A: By Jane Austin.
- C: Yes, I just read them. And let me see, what else. I read The Shepherd of the Hills. That's an old one. Harold Bell Wright wrote that. We used to have quite a big library. We sold it when we lived in Kahala.
- A: Have you remembered, by any chance, the name of the person to whom Mr. Coll sold his private papers?
- C: I can't remember the name of that boy but I think he [Robert Van Dyke] bought them for the State Archives. They're in the Archives. [Robert Van Dyke had an extensive Hawaiiana collection and, as I recall, sold some items to the Wax Museum, formerly in Waikiki. I do not know if any of these items went into the Archives--^{ed}IFC]
- A: Oh, good. Very good.
- C: Yep. And he had a lot of information. He had some from the first Mr. [Asa] Thurston, don't you know.
- A: Yes.
- C: They came here; his father was a missionary. [She seems to be referring to Lorrin Andrews Thurston, grandson of Asa Thurston. ^{ed}] Oh, he had some very interesting material.
- A: You mean some letters and things from Mr. Thurston--Lorrin A. Thurston?

- C: Yes. Well, this man, he was young. I think they lived up in Manoa or Makiki or someplace up there. And he [Mr. Coll] sold them to him and he never paid him. And so, I said, "You leave it to me. I'll get it." Somebody told me, "You call his mother," and I did. I called his mother and told her and she sent a check immediately. They were wealthy.
- A: And you don't remember the name?
- C: He was just careless.
- A: Uh huh. But you say that he then placed them in the Archives--State Archives.
- C: Yes, he wanted them for the Archives, unless he sold them to somebody else and they put them there, but they eventually landed in the Archives.
- A: That's good because I would be interested in looking at some of those things that he had.
- C: Yes, uh huh.
- A: Remember now, you mentioned in that Massie case that . . .
- C: Yes, he had a letter--that was in the bunch--from Mrs. [Thalia] Massie's mother.
- A: The mother [Grace Hubbard Bell Fortescue]. That's what I wondered, whether it was from Mrs. Massie or the mother. And it was the mother who phoned him, is that right?
- C: Yes, it was her mother and she wanted him to come up there the night they killed that man [Joseph Kahahawai], but he was sick then--he had a cold and couldn't go--and he said he was glad he didn't. He didn't want to witness anything like that.
- A: That would have been pretty horrible to have to witness.
- C: But the letter told it all, don't you know, what they were going to do and everything.
- A: And was it written to him because he was the editor?
- C: Yes. You know, she was the daughter of the inventor of the telephone.
- A: [Alexander Graham] Bell?

C: Yes, she was his daughter.

A: I never knew that.

C: I forget her name now. She was a very strong-minded woman. And I think those fellows lied their heads off. They assaulted that woman [Thalia Massie], because the photographer who worked for my husband picked her up lying along a road where they had thrown her, see.

A: Uh huh. Do you remember the photographer's name?

C: Oh no, I don't.

A: Was that Danny Morse, would that have been?

C: No, no. I forget his name now.

A: But he was a photographer with the Advertiser.

C: Yes, of the Advertiser.

A: And he was the one who picked her up? [According to historian Gavan Daws, Mrs. Massie "hailed a car driven by a man named Eustace Bellinger," who was with some friends, "and Bellinger drove her home to Manoa Valley."]

C: He picked her up and she was bleeding and in terrible shape and she told him the whole story. They lied their heads off, you know, [her attackers]. They were part-Hawaiian, I think; one was an Oriental, I think. I had a maid at that time--she was Spanish--and she said she knew this one boy and he was a bad egg, that he'd been in prison before. I think they were guilty but they're all dead now. I mean Mrs. Massie and her mother and all of them.

A: Is Mrs. Massie dead?

C: Yes, she died too.

A: Oh really? I didn't know that.

C: I think she committed suicide. Her life was ruined.

A: By that.

C: Yes, uh huh. It was pitiful.

A: Did you ever meet her or talk to her?

C: No, I went to the trial. I sat through the trial the whole

time.

A: Clarence Darrow was there, wasn't he?

C: Yes, uh huh.

A: He defended the mother.

C: Yes.

A: What do you remember about him?

C: Well, of course you know how a trial is; its just questions and answers. (Kathy chuckles)

A: Yes.

C: But oh, the mother, you couldn't break her down. She was a very strong character and she believed they were all guilty.

Well, I guess every generation you have something startling. Look at the killing now. It doesn't seem to mean anything.

A: There's an awful lot of it. Too much.

C: Yes. Yes. I think that fellow that shot [Alabama Governor George] Wallace is insane. He acts like an insane person.

A: Would seem to be.

C: Yes. He [Wallace] may get well. I hope he does. They say he can wiggle his toes.

A: You're really alert to everything that's going on.

C: Yes. Now, do you live alone?

A: Yes, I do.

C: Entirely alone?

A: Well, I have two fox terriers I just bought; a male and a female.

C: Oh, dogs are great company.

A: They are indeed.

C: My granddaughter has two poodles and they are just the

smartest things and the most devoted. You know, a dog loves you very much when you're good to them and they're company.

A: Oh, I know. This why I have them, because I live alone and I love dogs.

C: Oh, I love dogs too. We always had dogs. We had a fox terrier once and he used to chase an old man's cow up on Alewa Heights and he poisoned him. And you know, he dragged himself home and we had our bedroom down on the first floor and he laid under our window crying. I got awake and I called my husband. I said, "You know, that sounds like Wiki," and he jumped out of bed and he said, "I'll take an old overcoat--he's sick--and wrap him in it and we'll take him to the doctor." So I did the driving always and we took him to the doctor. He died. He said he was poisoned. But he dragged himself home to us and he died in my husband's arms, wrapped in his coat. They're smart.

A: Oh, they are indeed smart.

C: Well, I like fox terriers. They're short-haired and they're so cleanly and easy to wash. We had bull terriers and we also had a poodle--a medium-sized poodle--and we called him Jake. [Jake was a black standard poodle, AKC registration: Jacque of Kainapau--edIFC] But he was a bad one.

A: In what way?

C: Mischievous.

A: Yes, some of them are.

C: I had to sell him. I was afraid somebody would steal him. We lived next to the park.

A: Oh, you lived next to the park out at Kahala.

C: Yes, uh huh, and so I sold him and then we sold our home and I couldn't have a dog in here. Some people did have dogs in here but I was too old by that time.

A: Well, Mrs. Coll, I wish we could continue but it's almost time for your programs.

C: Yes. Well, I think I've talked enough. (laughter)

END OF INTERVIEW

NOTE: Mrs. Coll's favorite TV soap operas that begin at noon are "Edge of Night," "As the World Turns," and "Search for Tomorrow."

Madge Tennent, the artist, gave Mr. Coll her portrait of Princess Kaiulani which was hanging on a wall in Mrs. Coll's apartment.

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

Edited by Irva Fewell Coll

RE: Fitzhugh-Custis marriage (pp. 4 and 21)

Martha Dandridge Custis Washington had four children by Daniel Parke Custis, her first husband. Two of them died in infancy. Her daughter, Martha (Patsy) Parke Custis died at the age of seventeen. Her son, John Parke Custis, married and had three daughters and a son. Possibly John Parke Custis married a Fitzhugh or a relative of the Fitzhugh family of Virginia.

NOTE RE TAPES: p. 37

Mrs. Coll's interviews were recorded on four (4) tapes but some of the tapes have other interviews on them, hence the omission of SIDE 2/3RD TAPE. None of her interview has been omitted in the transcript. edKBA

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.